

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 HA-05 /072 W  
-----079431 012142Z /65

R 010655Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2347

UNCLAS MANILA 3321

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, PINS, RP

SUBJ: EDITORIAL ON MILITARY ABUSES

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF EDITORIAL ENTITLED "CHURCHMEN'S REPORT" IN BULLETIN TODAY OF FEBRUARY 28, PRAISING CHURCH EXPOSURE OF MILITARY ABUSES OF CIVILIANS IN SAMAR.

2. BEGIN TEXT: MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY SITTING IN THE CHURCH-MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE SUBMITTED THE REPORT THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE 533RD PC COMPANY STATIONED IN CALBIGA, WESTERN SAMAR HAD BEEN ABUSIVE.

THE SOLDIERS WERE SAID TO HAVE KILLED SUSPECTED NPA'S AND SYMPATHIZERS. THEY WERE ACCUSED OF LOOTING AND OTHER CRIMES.

SECRETARY ENRILE HAD REASON TO ORDER AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION OF THE CHARGES.

EVIDENTLY THESE ABUSES HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME TIME. WHY HAD THERE BEEN NO REPORTS FROM THE CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES, FOR EXAMPLE, THE MAYOR OR THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR?

WHY HAD IT TAKEN THE CLERGY TO REPORT THE CONDUCT OF THE SOLDIERS? WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF THE CLERGY DID NOT TAKE ACTION?

THE CASE ILLUSTRATES THE VALUE OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN LOOKING AFTER THE WELFARE OF THE COMMON PEOPLE. IT ALSO TENDS TO PROVE THE ALLEGATION THAT IN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE REMOTE AREAS, SOME MILITARY PERSONNEL TEND TO BE ABUSIVE.

IF THE INVESTIGATION TO BE CONDUCTED IS THOROUGH, PROBABLY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WILL GET A CLEARER PICTURE OF THE SITUATION IN WESTERN SAMAR.

IF THE GOVERNMENT IS SERIOUS IN GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS CASE, IT IS LIKELY THAT ITS ACTION WILL HAVE A

DETERRENT EFFECT ON THE BEHAVIOR OF THE SOLDIERS IN THE  
OTHER REMOTE PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. END TEXT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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